



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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ATCHISON, KANSAS, MAN SENTENCED FOR FIREARM VIOLATIONS

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Mark E. Crouch**, 42, Atchison, Kansas, was sentenced on February 17, 2004, by Chief U.S. District Judge John W. Lungstrum **to fifty-seven months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by two years of supervised release.**

Melgren stated that Crouch entered a guilty plea on October 20, 2003, to one count of making a false written statement to obtain firearms and three counts of being a felon in possession of firearms.

Melgren said that Crouch admitted at his plea that on March 27, 2003, he made a false written statement to a licensed firearms dealer that he had never been convicted of a felony and because of the false statement purchased two firearms, a shotgun and a rifle, from the firearms dealer. Crouch also admitted that on March 29, 2003, he possessed an assault rifle; on April 2, 2003, he possessed a shotgun and a rifle; and on June 1, 2003, he possessed two rifles, all after having previously been convicted of a felony, conspiracy to commit arson and arson, in the District Court of Atchison County, Kansas, in 1998.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead in this prosecution.